

REMARKS

Claims 10-18 are pending. No amendment has been made.

The Verification of English Translation by Ken-Ichi Morizumi and the English translation of Japanese Patent Application No. 2004-092305 submitted herewith demonstrate that Tam et al. (US 6,969,553) is not a prior art reference against the present application. As stated in the Response to Office Action filed February 10, 2009, the present invention is a 371 national phase application of PCT/JP2004/018004 filed December 3, 2004, claiming priority to Japanese Applications No. 2004-092305 (JP 2004-092305) filed March 26, 2004. The attached verified English translation of JP 2004-092305 shows that JP 2004-092305 discloses the subject matter of claims 10-18. Therefore, claims 10-18 have an effective filing date of March 26, 2004, prior to the earliest reference date of Tam, namely, its filing date of September 3, 2004. Tam is not prior art against the claims. Withdrawal of the obviousness rejections of claims 10-18 over Tam is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned regarding any questions concerning this amendment. In the event that the filing of this paper is deemed not timely, applicants petition for an appropriate extension of time. The Commissioner is authorized to debit Deposit Account No. 11-0600 the petition fee and any other fees that may be required in relation to this paper.

Respectfully submitted,

KENYON & KENYON LLP

Dated: March 17, 2009

By: /King L. Wong/
King L. Wong
Reg. No. 37,500

1500 K Street, N.W., Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005-1257
(202) 220-4200 (telephone)
(202) 220-4201 (facsimile)

Enclosures

1. Verification of English Translation by Ken-Ichi Morizumi dated March 10, 2009
2. English translation of Japanese Patent Application No. 2004-092305